

Fact Sheet

About Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA)

The U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) works to build friendly, peaceful relations between the people of the United States and the people of other countries through academic, cultural, sports, and professional exchanges, as well as public-private partnerships.

In an effort to reflect the diversity of the United States and global society, ECA programs, funding, and other activities encourage the involvement of American and international participants from traditionally underrepresented groups, including women, racial and ethnic minorities, and people with disabilities. Artists, educators, athletes, students, youth, and rising leaders in the United States and more than 160 countries around the globe participate in academic, cultural, sports, and professional exchanges.

Sports Envoys

Sports Envoys are athletes and coaches who travel overseas to lead programs that were developed by U.S. embassies and consulates. These American coaches and athletes hold sports clinics for young people and their coaches, participate in community outreach activities, and engage youth in a dialogue on the importance of leadership and respect for diversity.



SportsUnited, ECA's Division devoted to sports diplomacy, taps into sports diplomacy's ability to increase dialogue and cultural understanding between people around the world. SportsUnited manages the Sports Envoy programs, working in cooperation with the U.S. Olympic Committee, U.S. sports federations, and professional leagues. The Division's use of sports as a platform exposes foreign participants to American culture while providing them with an opportunity to establish links with U.S. sports professionals and peers. In turn, Americans learn about foreign cultures and the challenges young people from other countries face today. SportsUnited has involved thousands of people from over 100 countries in sports exchanges to do just this.

Bio of Sue Wicks



Sue Wicks is a former basketball player in the Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA). She played with the New York Liberty from 1997 to 2002.

Wicks played for Rutgers University from 1984 to 1988. While at Rutgers, she was named a Kodak All-American in 1986, 1987 and 1988 and won numerous Player of the Year awards in 1988. She was a gold medalist in the 1987 Pan-American Games.

Following her college career, she played professionally in Italy, Japan, Spain and Israel before the WNBA was founded. In 1997, she was signed for the inaugural WNBA season by the New York Liberty.

Wicks developed into an All-star player, participating in each WNBA All-Star Game from 1999 to 2002. In 2000, she received the WNBA's top award for sportsmanship, the Kim Perrot Sportsmanship Award. In June 2013 Wicks was inducted into the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame.

Bio of Brian Cardinal



Brian Lee Cardinal, nicknamed "The Custodian" or "The Janitor" is an American professional basketball player who has most recently played for the Dallas Mavericks. Prior to being drafted by the Detroit Pistons of the NBA, Cardinal played college basketball at Purdue University.

He received the nickname "The Custodian" due to the way he cleaned the floor diving for loose balls. Brian left Purdue as the only Boilermaker to receive both the "Mr. Hustle" Award and the "Courage" Award four years in a row.

While at Purdue, Brian won a Gold Medal at the 1998 Goodwill games, where Team USA went 4–1. He was also a member of the 1997 U-22 National Team, which finished 5th in a 12-team field. During his career Brian played for six different NBA teams (Pistons, Wizards, Warriors, Grizzlies, Timberwolves and Mavericks), and one season in the Spanish league playing for Pamesa Valencia.

U.S. Sports Envoy Program Schedule, Kuala Lumpur – Kuantan (Aug 23- Aug 29)

Aug 23 Kuala Lumpur

- 3.00 pm Talk at MABA (Malaysian Basketball Association)
- 4.00 pm Press Conference at MABA
- 4.30 pm Basketball Clinic at MABA

Aug 24

- 10.00 am US Embassy Basketball Clinic at MABA
- 4.15 pm Meet and Greet session and launching of Freedom Festival at Bandar Utama Central Park
- 7.00 pm Clinic at YMCA KL

Aug 25

- 10.00 am Reading session and clinic at Pure Life Society, Puchong
- 2.00 pm Clinic for youth in collaboration with KL Dragons in Klang

Aug 26 Kuantan

- 3.00 pm Clinic for students at Sek. Men. Agama Al-Ihsan

Aug 27

- 8.30 am Clinic for students at Sek. Men. Sains Sultan Hj Ahmad Shah
- 3.30 pm Youth Clinic at Kuantan Basketball Training Centre

Aug 28

- 8.30 am Clinic for local community coaches at Kuantan Basketball Training Centre
- 3.00 pm Clinic for students at Sek. Men. Agama Al-Ihsan

End of sports program